Domestic Sale by 100 per cent Export Oriented Units

1652. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to issue guidelines pertaining to the sale by 100 per cent export-Oriented Units, in foreign currency to the domestic tariff area for domestic users; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Provisions of Para 103(b) of Export & Import Policy as well as Guidelines for sales in the domestic tariff area permit EOU/EPZ units to effect such sales against foreign exchange. Certain operational problems have, however, been recently reported which are being looked into.

Memorandum of understanding with New Central Asian States

1653. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with four newly independent Central Asian States of Uzebekistan, Kazakhastan, Khyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan fourth the promotion of bilateral trade and commercial cooperation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KSHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir. MOUs were signed with each country during the recent visit of a multi-sectoral delegation led by Deputy Minister of Commerce to Central Asian States of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan.

(b) Amongst the specific understandings included in these MOUs are government credits extended to those countries, promotion of trade, inter-alia, on the basis of the bilateral trade agreement, exchange of trade data and information, counter trade, opening up of transport and transit routes air links, agreements on investment protection, joint ventures cooperation in Specific sectors, and setting up of joint ventures banks in these countries.

Trade and Commerce with Commonwealth of Independent States

1654. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : DR. SANJAY SINH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated norms for trade and commerce with the States of the erstwhile Soviet Union, now known as Commonwealth of Independent States; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the said agreement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have been taking a series of measures with a view to formulating norms and providing framework for India's trade and Commerce with the Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Accordingly, India has signed bilateral trade agreements with the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Khyrghzstan and Turkmenistan. A trade agreement with Belarus has been initialled. These are supplemented by corresponding inter-banking arrangements.

(b) The trade agreements in general provide for trade and economic cooperation on a stable and long-term basis, payments in freely convertible currencies, 'Most Favoured Nation' treatment mutually, trade also on the basis of barter counter trade, promotions of exchange of visits of delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, and exchange of information, promotion of joint ventures, cooperation in the fields of science and technology, ecology, tourism, communications, training, and other spheres of mutual interest, and encouragement to opening of branch offices of foreign trade organisations and banks etc.

In addition, Ministry of Commerce has issued a Public Notification on October 5th, 1992 announcing specific liberalisation measures of counter-trade and trade in hard currency with the republics of the erstwhile USSR.